

Church Life



Experiencing and Sharing Christ through Love & Service

A look back on Oct.—Dec. 2022 & a look ahead to Jan.— March, 2023 Volume 75, Issue 1



An Introduction from Interim Minister, Chris Owens

I want to start by thanking the search committee and the congregation for selecting me to be your Interim Minister as you search for Ruth’s replacement. I am truly honored and hope I can help make this transition for the church as smooth as possible. In the short time I have been here I have witnessed the love and support you show and am blessed to be a part of it.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and thought I would share a little about myself with you. I grew up in Marshall County. After high school I joined the military and served with the 82nd Airborne during Desert Storm. Following my service, I started college at Murray State and loved it so much I was in school for 10 years. I received my Ph.D. in Political Science from Texas A&M University and taught at a university in Michigan for a number of years. In 2016, I returned home to Western Kentucky and started training and certifying foster parents. My work with foster parents led to my call to the ministry. I am in my second year at the Lexington Theological Seminary and loving every minute of it.

I currently live with my Wife Jean in Lone Oak. Jean is a Special Education Teacher in Ballard County. I have four step-children. Will lives with his wife Luran in Louisville and two months ago gave us our first grandchild, Remi Gayle. Ben lives in Paducah and is still finding himself. Sam is a freshman studying Engineering at UK and Meg is the only one left at home. Meg is a Junior at McCracken County High School. My daughter Celia lives in Chicago. She recently received her Master’s in Counselling and works with adults that have sustained brain injuries.

I am very much looking forward to the months ahead as we learn and grow with Christ together. I will be in the church office Tuesday-Friday, feel free to stop by at any time or give me a call or text at 270-703-7552. I know I have a great deal to learn but I cannot think of a better place to be doing it than FCC Murray.

Blessings,
Chris

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Update from the Search Committee

The pulpit search committee has had a busy three months. With the help of the congregation, we were able to obtain the information we needed to complete the Congregational Profile and sent it off to the regional office in Lexington. We also interviewed two candidates for the position of interim pastor. We chose to offer the position to Chris Owens who is off to a great start. We have a one-year contract with Chris, but it has a clause that would allow us to give him 60-days notice if we find and call someone for the full-time settled minister's position before that. As most ministers would need to give their congregations a two-month notice the timing would work out.

We are looking forward to a second meeting with our regional minister, Dr. Don Gillett, and our west area minister, Rachel Nance-Woehler concerning our next steps in our search. Our congregational profile will be shared with ministers who are looking for a position and match up with our criteria. This is likely to be a long process so continue to pray for God's leading in this search.

June Vander Molen,
Search Committee Chair

Upcoming Events



Wednesdays, 8:30 AM

Weekly Men's Breakfast @ Crossroads Restaurant

We are glad to continue our weekly breakfast starting at 8:30 AM at the Crossroads Restaurant -808 Chestnut St. This is starting as a Men's Breakfast, and is meant just to gather us together outside of the church so we can get to know each other better. Whether someone wants just coffee, a biscuit, or a full breakfast, please join us as you are able.

Upcoming Events

KENLAKE SQUARE ROUNDS

BEGINNERS & BEYOND
SQUARE DANCE CLASSES

12 years - adults
couples & singles welcome!

OPEN CLASSES
TUESDAYS 6:30-8:30PM

*No class will be held on December 27th, but will resume on January 3rd

\$12.50
PER COUPLE
PER CLASS
\$6.25
PER SINGLE

111 NORTH 5TH ST.
MURRAY, KY
FELLOWSHIP HALL OF
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

To sign up or for
inquiries contact
Bryan Warner
+270-978-7291
brykwarner@gmail.com



Upcoming Events



Sunday, February 5, 2023

Immediately following worship, Fellowship Hall

Backpack Program 'Packing Party'

Our Church will again be supporting the Need Line Backpack sack program by supplying food sacks for the last two weeks of February.

There are children in our community who are "food-insecure" on weekends when they are not in school. The school resource centers identify who these children are, and these sacks are placed in their backpacks on Fridays. We pack for children in the Calloway and Murray elementary and preschools. The Middle schools and High schools are assisted through a different program.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 5th! We will meet after Church on that day to pack these bags. Anyone who can, please meet in the Fellowship hall. Thank you to David Robinson and Teresa Nixon, who have both already done so much to get items ready to pack.

This year the need is for 700 sacks to cover two weeks, the most we have ever needed to pack.

Upcoming Events



“ASH WEDNESDAY” Wednesday, February 22, 2022

5 PM ~ Lenten Soup and Bread Meal

6 PM ~ Ash Wednesday Service

Come for a simple meal of soup and bread in the fellowship hall as we fellowship together to begin the season of Lent and our forty-day journey to the cross. Following the meal, we will join together in the sanctuary for a contemplative worship celebration. This is a family service, and we encourage people of all ages to attend! With this we will usher in the season of Lent.

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, March 1, 2023 ~ 6:00 pm.

Film Screening: The Ants and the Grasshopper

Join us in the sanctuary for an online screening of an acclaimed documentary that follows the life of the inspiring Anita Chitaya. After successfully confronting challenge after challenge in her home country of Malawi, Chitaya comes to the United States faced with the most difficult task of her life. In order to save her home from extreme weather, she seeks to persuade people in the United States that climate change is real. The film documents her efforts as she travels around the country from California to the White House to engage everyone from climate skeptics to despairing farmers.

The documentary has received numerous film festival awards and accolades. Journalist Michael Pollen declared that he was “blown away” by this powerful film about “a hero of such grace and intelligence and power.”

This event is cohosted by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Green Chalice Ministries, the Environmental Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and Blessed Tomorrow.

Christian Women's Fellowship



Both groups invite all ladies of the church to join them any month for meetings including prayer, motivational lessons and fellowship. You can even do as some do and attend both groups!

Group I Meetings:

Meets in the church Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted) on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

January 10, 2023

Hostess: Bobbie Raby
Program: Doris Cella

February 14, 2023

Hostess: Rebecca Landolt
Program: Judy Lyle

March 14, 2023

Hostess: Judy Lyle
Program: Bobbie Raby

Chair: Judy Lyle

Vice Chair: Bobbie Raby

Treasurer: Betty McCord

Secretary: Ruth Daughaday

Group II Meetings:

Meets at the church (unless otherwise noted) on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

January 16, 2023

Hostess: Jean Bennet
Program: Jean Bennet

February 20, 2023

Hostess: Teresa Nixon
Program: Krista Crass

March 20, 2023

Hostess: Vicky Holton
Program: Vicky Holton

Chair: Teresa Nixon

Vice Chair: Billie Burton

Treasurer: Vicky Holton

Service Chair: Vicky Holton

January, 29 2023, 1:00 p.m.

**CWF General Meeting
In the Fellowship Hall**

Christian Women's Fellowship

CWF Prayer

*Unto Thee, O God, we give our thanks and lift
our hearts in prayer. May Thy presence be
with us and thy love surround us as we work
together in the Christian Women's
Fellowship. Open our eyes to the needs of
the world and fill our hearts with concern
for all people. Guide us, that we may truly
serve thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.



CWF General Officers for 2022-2023

CHAIRPERSON: Carmen Garland

VICE-CHAIR: Ruth Daughaday

SECRETARY: Rebecca Landolt

TREASURER: Krista Crass

SERVICE CHAIRS: Betty McCord & Vicky Holton

Disciples Men's Fellowship



Once a month, usually the third Tuesday, the Disciples Men's Fellowship meets with other men from the Disciples of Christ churches in the Far West Area for a meal, time of fellowship, and program. Our men (women also are invited!) travel in the church van to the church where the meeting is being hosted. Dan McKeel, DMF chair, will let the men know what time the van will be leaving the church parking lot.

DMF UPDATES FROM DAN McKEEL

Good morning,

October 19, 2022

It was great to see all of you last night at KBY. The meeting was hosted by Rev. Dee Moore Wells at KBY. If you got there before it got dark you were able to see the massive improvements that have taken place since last year. Really GREAT!

Rev. Dee provided a great meal of spaghetti, salad and deserts. Very, Very Good!

We had a great turn out from seven churches with 48 person's present. We had a brief meeting and collected \$179 for KBY fund and \$161 for Christian Care Communities = \$340.

Our new balance in the \$5,089.57. At the end of the meeting our group voted to pay KBY for our meal. I wrote a check for \$500 and gave to Dee before I left. New balance after the check is \$4,589.57.

We were pleased to have as our guest, Rev. Greg Alexander and Rev. Alex Ruth, with us and their presentation about Men's Ministry. Lots of information was given out including the following:

Jesuswaymen.net

If you bring this up it has connections to several other links like the Disciples Men POD cast, able to sign up for the Voice. Alex mentioned that there are 5 Touch Stone's that they use: 1. Compassionate, 2. Serving, 3. Faithful, 4. Loving, Christ Like. Very good message for all the men.

Next month's meeting will be Wickliffe on 11/15/22. There will be no meeting in December and then we will meet on the 3rd Tuesday in January at Bethel Christian Church.

Dan McKeel

Disciples Men's Fellowship



The Far West Men's Meeting had a great turn out at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya on October 18th! Many thanks to Rev. Dee Moore Wells for hosting. There were 48 people present, representing seven area churches.

Disciples Men's Fellowship



Many thanks to Doug Vander Molen for capturing some photos at Cam Kum-Ba-Ya before and during the October meeting.

Disciples Men's Fellowship

Good morning everyone,

November 16, 2022

It was great to see everyone last evening at Wickliffe. We had a great meeting with 34 men in attendance representing 7 churches. There were several that were unable to attend because of sickness and other reasons but we hope to see you back in January. We are now in the time of year when it gets dark early so it was dark when we arrived and dark when we left.

We were served a wonderful fish dinner with all the fixings and great deserts! It was great.

We received contributions of \$233 (\$131 for KBY & \$102 for Christian Care Communities) a check has been mailed. Our new balance now stands at \$4,720.57.

Rev. Dee Moore Wells gave a report on KBY and the work day last Saturday, they had a great turnout. They continue to work towards having a year round camp ground. Sounds like things are continuing to progress. New siding going up on the Billy Williams building, they have started to construct a porch on this building that will be outside the kitchen door and you will see it when you enter the camp. Dee described it as looking like a Cracker Barrel, Sounds great. Plans are in the works to offer a camp for foster children this next year. Remember if you have time to work at the camp or just want to visit you can call Dee at **(931) 260-7788** or e-mail to: deemwells@gmail.com to make arrangements.

We heard a program presented by Richard Pigg's son-in-law who is a Pilot. We learned about what is involved in the service industry on the river, Mississippi and Ohio. It was very interesting and informative.

We will not meet in December but will resume on January 17, 2023 at Bethel Christian Church. This will be a Ladies Night so be sure and invite your better half.

Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas! Look forward to seeing you in January at Bethel.

Dan McKeel

The Far West Christian Men's group will meet:

January 17, 7 p.m.:
Bethel Christian Church
12245 Woodville Rd.,
Kevil, KY 42053

February 20, 7 p.m.:
First Christian Church
415 Audubon Dr.,
Paducah, KY 42001

March 21, 7 p.m.:
First Christian Church
2515 Main St.,
Benton, KY 42025

Financial Giving

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER		
	2022	2021
Income	\$20,186.70	\$ 20,411.87
Expense	\$ 8,390.86	\$11,302.64
Balance	\$11,795.84	\$9,109.23

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER		
	2022	2021
Income	\$20,657.16	\$27,555.53
Expense	\$5,653.22	\$15,477.22
Balance	\$15,003.94	\$12,078.31

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER		
	2022	2021
Income	\$15,313.44	\$34,844.11
Expense	\$12,871.02	\$11,532.06
Balance	\$2,442.42	\$23,312.05

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR Jan.- Dec.		
	2022	2021
Income	\$161,787.55	\$187,839.61
Expense	\$143,347.45	\$150,178.55
Balance	\$18,440.10	\$37,661.06

Online Giving

Missing worship service? No problem. Make your tithes and offerings with Givelify from wherever you are, using your computer or your Smart phone app.

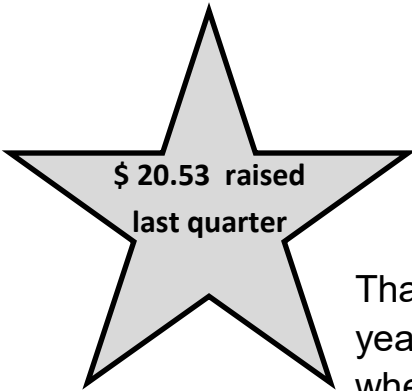
To make a computer donation, go to <https://www.givelify.com/givers> to start giving. To make a mobile donation, we recommend you download the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.

It's free to download and use. It's totally safe and secure, and for tax time you have one-tap access to your complete donation records.



Financial Giving

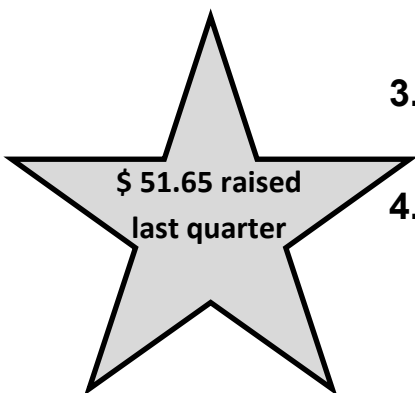
Community Rewards Programs



Thank you to all who shopped through Amazon Smile over the years. It was a great way to get a little more bang for your buck, when doing your regular online shopping. Unfortunately, Amazon is doing away with this program starting February 20, 2023. But you can still sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. See below for instructions on how to do so. You may also contact the church office if you would like assistance.



1. To enroll in Kroger Community Awards and give back to FCC, visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and log into your Kroger account.
2. Once there, you will see "Give More Back to the Community." Hit the "Enroll Now" button.
3. To enroll in awards to benefit FCC, type in "First Christian Church— Murray" or "ID458"
4. Click on the organization button (it's round and to the left of the name). Then click on "enroll." This money benefits the Building Fund.



Joys and Thanksgivings

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

1	Jordan Benton	15	Leah Ann Enzendorfer
2	Elizabeth Dawson Howard Bradley Marvin	16	Brandon Daughaday Lyn Ryan
3	David Daughaday Tory Daughrity Lily Kinsley	17	Henry Kwan
4	Sam Dillard	19	Jennifer Donnelly
5	Bryan Warner	20	Blake Morris
10	Leah Hart	23	Echo Wu
13	Eliana Benton-Ragovin Haley Hart Bruce Dobyns	26	Albert Zimmerman
		27	Fulton Hart



March

February

1	Rick Hensley
4	Sam Allen Leah Hughes
5	Joyce Clause
7	Terri Benton
9	Eli McKeel
10	Rebecca Landolt
11	Lisa Allen Gary Darnell
14	Katie Allen
15	Alison Epperson
18	Dwight Willis
22	Angela Gierhart
28	Roger Dawson

1	Mark Dycus	22	Aidan Nichols
3	Rose Donnelly		John Roark
7	Stacy Fulton Humes		Amy Roos
8	Krista Crass	23	Patsy King
9	Nancy Dycus	25	Henry Hart
15	Lillian Gierhart Terry Hart	28	Madison Grace Garland
	Elizabeth Roberts	30	Julie Warner
20	Mallory Cathey Looney	31	Jackie Underwood
	Mike Cathey		
21	Haval Latif		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January

14	Greg & Lillian Gierhart
23	John & Jan Fuqua
24	Sonny & Julie Warner
25	Albert & Emily Zimmerman

February

March

17	Eric & Dee Roberts
23	Marty & Karen Dunham
24	Scott & Julie McKeel

Joys and Thanksgivings

The following section contains just a partial list of the joys and thanksgivings that were mentioned in worship on Sunday mornings. We know that there are many more that are not listed here that we do not know about and we would be so proud of the person who had done well! Please do reach out and share your joys and thanksgivings with the church office or on Sunday mornings during worship so we can share your joy with others!

In October, we congratulated Nina Natividad who was nominated by Murray State University to the National Society of Leadership and Success!

Leah Hughes (grade 6) and Claire Gray (grade 8) were both named Student of the Week at Calloway county Middle School in October!

Little Acts of Kindness bags were assembled at a Packing Party after worship on October 23 and then delivered to HOPE Calloway by Melanie Dawson and to Murray Calloway County Hospital by Ann Thornton the following week. (See details in the Outreach section)



Congratulations to Alyssa Daughrity who was named Rotary Club's October Student of the Month!

Congratulations to Lily Sanchez on gaining her undergraduate degree from MSU! She began her master's study in Occupational Safety & Health with a concentration in Environmental studies this January.

Congratulations to Alyssa Daughrity who was awarded the Gold Jersey in November; for taking on "a big role for us in recent games and did not back down when challenged." Way to go, Alyssa!

Joys and Thanksgivings



A man by the name of Walt Hartsfield stopped by the church in October. He's a local postcard enthusiast and has been downsizing his collection. He gifted us these three historic postcards of the church, the one on the right being the oldest & dating back to 1907!

Thanksgiving food boxes were delivered in November to provide meals for 15 families. Appreciation to Bradley Dawson and David Robinson for delivering the food to Needline for their distribution. A huge thank you to the Food Giant staff for compiling and boxing all the items for distribution at no charge. (See details in the Outreach Section)



What a blessing it is to give!

Pictured left are Claire and Laurel Gray and Emily Dawson of First Christian Church, Murray delivering a check from FCC to HOPE Calloway. (Also pictured are Ally Holtrey and Jessica Williams of HOPE Calloway)



Pictured right are Emily, Claire and Laurel delivering to Main Street Murray Youth Program, with Executive Director David Hudspeth. (See details in the Outreach Section)



Joys and Thanksgivings – Thank You Notes

"I'm out of the office this week, enjoying a family vacation (my son's first trip to the ocean!) I want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Judy Lyle for volunteering to take care of things in the office while I'm away!" -Katelyn

Thank you to Betty McCord, Vicki Holton, Donna Cathey, and Teresa Nixon for attacking the top floor of the Education building. Their efforts at decluttering and cleaning are astounding. Thanks also to Terry Hart for numerous trips up and down the stairs carrying boxes and boxes and boxes. Also thanks to David Robinson for carrying down the heavy box of paints.

Continuing thanks to Donna Cathey for her efforts in sprucing up the front yard. Sorry if anyone was missed, but thanks to you as well.

"Hanging of the Greens takes a great deal of time and effort to prepare the sanctuary for that inspiring event.

I would like to thank MCF members Monica, Jacqui, Margaret, Melati, and Emmanuel for their hard work this past Sunday evening helping make our sanctuary ready for the Christmas season and the Hanging of the Greens service.

A very special thanks to Vicky Holton, Betty McCord, Mark Dycus, Don Bennett, and June VanderMolen for all their hard work that evening, and to Doris Cella for handling the kitchen duties.

To add to that night's excitement, a very active leak was discovered, so thanks are also due to Terry Hart and Dan McKeel for their quick responses to our distress call! "

~Jean Bennett



A **BIG** thank you to Melanie Dawson for all of her work in lining up speakers for Hanging of the Greens, as well as overseeing everything that Sunday morning. And a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped in other ways. It was wonderful! Thank you to our presenters/readers, our musicians, and candle lighters. We loved seeing our young people back in church.

Appreciation and many thanks to Don Chamberlain who oversees our stewardship in-flow and out-flow all year and his work on getting our budget together.

Joys and Thanksgivings

Many Thanks to Those Who Have Filled the Pulpit

The past several months without a minister have been challenging. But it has been a great joy to welcome many different ministers throughout the region and enjoy their different preaching styles. We are so grateful for June Vander Molen and the rest of the search committee for keeping the pulpit filled throughout this time of transition.

Message for October 2: Ken Wolf brought a message entitled “Whisperings of the Spirit based on Psalm 42:1-6a and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

Message for October 9: Tom Martin brought the message entitled "Thank You" based on Luke 17: 11-19.

Message for October 16: Chris Owens brought the message entitled "Did You Hear What Happened Yesterday in Jerusalem?" based on John 19:38-40.

Message for October 23: Beth Dobyngs brought a message entitled “Listen to Your Life” based on II Timothy 4:6-8 and 16-18.

Message for October 30: Jim Gearhart brought the message “A Prayer for ALL the Saints” based on Ephesians 1:11-23.

Message for November 6: Mike Kerrick, Murray Christian Fellowship Campus Minister, brought the message entitled "God's Own Introduction" based on Exodus 34:6-7.

Message for November 13: Rev. Dr. Jenna Goggins brought the message entitled “Into the Unknown” based on Genesis 12:1-4 and John 3:5-10.

Message for November 20: Rev. Bruce Dobyngs brought the message entitled "Crosscheck" based on Philippians 4:4-9.

Message for December 4: Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Camp Manager, Rev. Dee Moore Wells brought the message entitled "Unwrapping the Gift of Peace" based on Isaiah 11:1-6 and John 14:27.

Message for December 18: Dennis Gray brought a message entitled “Preparing for Discipleship” based on Matthew 5:1.

Condolences



Our love and prayers are with Don Wilson and the family of his mother **Linda Wilson**, who passed away on Friday, October 28 at Paris Healthcare Nursing and Rehab in Paris, TN. The service was held on October 31st, at J.H. Churchill.

Our love and prayers are with Kathy Culbert and the family and friends of **Liz Rose** after Liz's death on Saturday, December 3, 2022.

*Please note these are only the condolences for October—December 2022. All those we lost in the months of January—March 2023 will be shared in the next edition of Church Life.

Be in prayer for...

- Billie Burton
- Roger Dawson
- Richard Downs
- Judy and Dave Eldredge
- David Graham
- The friends and family of Donnie Janes
- Judy Hill
- Lisa Kindall
- Patsy King & family
- Richard Knight
- Linda Luther
- Nancy Manning
- Bob & Celeste McAllister
- Laquita and Dale McCoin
- the friends and family of Sharon Moore
- the friends and family of Mandi Murdock
- the friends and family of Rob Pennington
- McKenna Phelps
- Russell & Ruth Ragovin & family
- Jackie Underwood



Outreach

A report by: Melanie Dawson

During the months of October through December 2022, our church participated in the following outreach efforts:

- ✦ On October 2nd, World Communion Sunday, we took a special offering for the **Disciples Mission Fund** (designated to support all 72 ministries of our denomination). \$496.35 was received and a check was sent on 11/27/22. I want to thank everyone who contributed to help fund all of these wonderful programs.
- ✦ The packing party on Sunday, October 23rd for the **Little Acts of Kindness Bags** was a HUGE success. I want to thank all who donated items, especially David Robinson who has been collecting all year long. I want to thank Celeste McAllister for sewing all of the bags. I want to thank the twenty individuals who stayed after worship on October 23rd and assembled 156 bags. Four of those bags had extra items added and were given to four girls that families are being helped by HOPE Calloway. Those four bags and twenty more were delivered to HOPE Calloway on October 27th by Melanie Dawson. Ann Thornton delivered 32 bags to the hospital (16 to the ER and 16 to the pediatric unit) on October 27th. Want to make contact with other agencies and deliver more bags. (See pictures in the JOYS section)
- ✦ Contributed money (\$250) to **Laundry Love** for our month of November. Due to COVID, we no longer work at the laundry mat but Iwash cards are given to families through the school's resource centers. Twenty cards are loaded with \$12.50 each and distributed (10 each) to the Murray and Calloway schools. We still partner with St. John's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church for Laundry Love.
- ✦ **Thanksgiving food boxes** were delivered Friday (11/18/22) to provide meals for 15 families. Appreciation to Bradley Dawson and David Robinson for delivering the food to Needline for their distribution. A huge thank you to the Food Giant staff for compiling and boxing all the items for distribution at no charge. The costs for the project averaged out \$69-70 per family. We need to also thank Rebecca Landolt for always organizing this program for our church. (See picture in the JOYS section)

Outreach

- ✦ Made donations to the following from the Outreach Designated Fund:
 - Serenity Recovery (9-month non-residential recovery program designed to help addicts and alcoholics) \$500
 - Murray Christian Fellowship \$500
 - Soup for the Soul \$300
 - Tiger Christmas \$350
 - Laker Christmas \$350
 - Christmas gift/checks to members of our congregation totaling \$500

- ✦ The 300 cans of sweet potatoes for the **Needline Christmas Food Baskets** were delivered to Needline on December 12, 2022.

- ✦ We delivered the checks to HOPE Calloway (\$497) and Main Street Youth Center (\$1,236.50) on Dec 20, 2022. I want to thank Emily Dawson and Chip, Claire and Laurel Gray for meeting me, presenting the checks and having their pictures taken. (See pictures in our JOYS section)

- ✦ Outreach took up the last special offering for the year on Sundays, January 1st and January 8th, 2023. This “Special Christmas Offering” for the **Disciples Mission Fund** is designated to go to our **regional ministries** (West Area and Camp Kum Ba Ya). Total of this offering is not known at this time.

- ✦ The Christmas Eve Service had to be cancelled due to the ice and frigid temperatures. Receiving some donations to the **Christmas Eve offering** the week before, we mentioned and accepted it on the Sundays January 1st and January 8th, 2023. This offering is designated to go to the 2nd Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mayfield. The amount of this offering is not known at this time.

- ✦ Ongoing Outreach activities as seen in our weekly emails:
 - Green Needline Bags
 - Blessing Boxes
 - Rebecca’s Sunday school class goes out every Sunday morning and checks restocks the blessing box behind our church. David Robinson and many others from our congregation place items in the Blessing Box both here and other places.
 - Collect snacks for the Main Street Youth Center.

Outreach

-Alternative Gift Catalog

People may give alternative gifts any time of the year, which help support the following organizations: Murray's Kids Care for Hunger in Calloway County, HOPE Calloway, Church World Service, Serenity Recovery, Main Street Youth Center, Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House, Starfish International, Soup for the Soul, CASA by the Lakes, Week of Compassion, Calloway County Collective, and Habitat for Humanity-Murray/Calloway County.

✦ Upcoming activities:

We will be packing approximately 700 brown paper bags for the Backpack Program on Sunday, February 5, 2023- following morning worship here in the Fellowship Hall.

Shining A LIGHT On Homelessness

Support **HOPE Calloway** and make a difference for our homeless friends and neighbors. When you make a donation of \$10 you will receive a candle to place in your window to help “shine a light on homelessness”.

Candles are available for purchase at First Christian Church or at the HOPE Calloway office. All checks for the sales should be made to HOPE CALLOWAY.

Contact First Christian Church

111 North 5th Street

(270) 753-3824

or HOPE CALLOWAY

629 Broad Street

(270) 761-6802



Many thanks to Rebecca Landolt for organizing this important effort!

Previous Events



Saturday, November 5, 2023

CWF Noel Market

The Christian Women's Fellowship Annual Noel Market was a great success, with many people from the community stopping by. The fellowship hall was filled with holiday crafts & décor, and was also where the take out only soup and bread was distributed. On the main floor of the Christian Education building held the Attic Treasures room, a bake & canned goods sale, as well as a place to sit and enjoy ham biscuits, cinnamon rolls and beverages. Candace Miller was the winner of the antique quilt raffle.

The sale raised over \$4,600, which will all go toward Outreach efforts led by the Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF).

Previous Events



Sunday, November 27

Hanging of the Greens

Our Hanging of the Greens service was a great way of kicking off the season of Advent. Many families participated in the service, speaking on the meanings of various objects you often see throughout the Advent season. We sang Christmas songs and enjoyed special music by the Chancel Choir. A potluck was also held after the service.

Previous Events – Hanging of the Greens



Previous Events – Hanging of the Greens



Previous Events



Sunday December 11, 2022

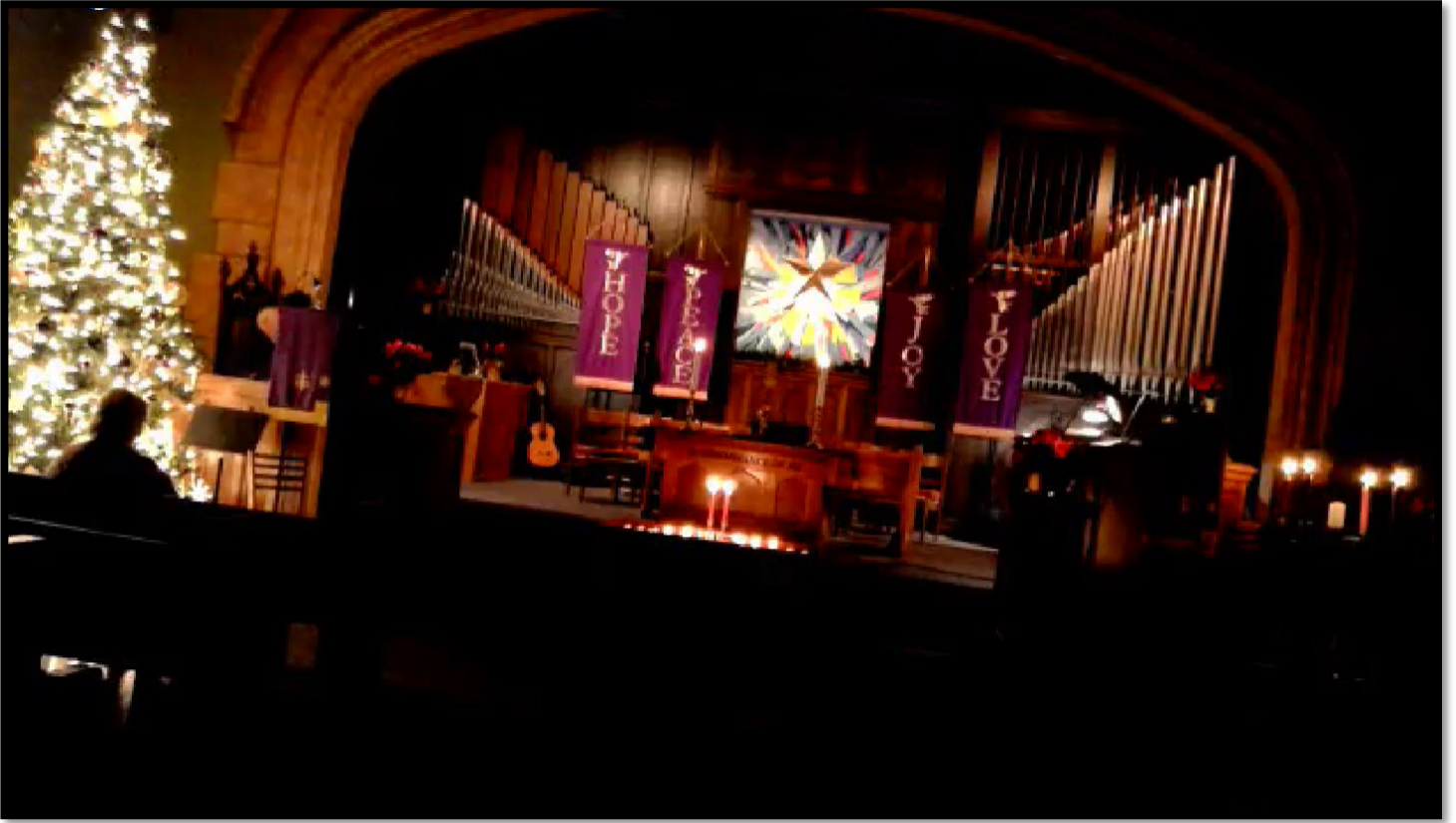
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Another beautiful Cantata is in the books. Music Minister Mark Dycus led the choir in the following songs:

“Bethlehem Wind”	Joseph Martin
“Every Valley”	John Ness Beck
“See that Star”	Judy Hunnicutt
“I Bring You Good News”	Llyod Larson

Doris Cella was the narrator, Janet Finch played piano and Carrie Beane played flute.

Previous Events



Wednesday December 21, 2022 ~ The Winter Solstice Longest Night, Service of Light

On Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM we held our annual “Longest Night-Service of Light” service on the Winter Solstice. It was a small and intimate service organized by Ann Thornton and led by several members of the congregation. The service was followed by hot apple cider and refreshments in the parlor.

Previous Events

A **surprise reception** was held on Friday, December 16th at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for long time members **Dave & Judy Eldredge**. It was a joy to celebrate them and surround them with love.



Christmas Eve and Day Services ~ Dec. 24 & 25, 2022

We were so excited to be hosting our Christmas Eve service for the first time since 2019. Worship Leader, Jean Bennett worked diligently to get all the speaking parts covered and the service arranged just right. But God and nature had other plans! A cold front, the polar vortex, moved in on the afternoon of Thursday, December 22 and brought with it record cold temperatures, ice, snow, and high winds. Temperatures plummeted to – 4 degrees F and didn't reach above freezing until Monday the 26th.

Because of the dangerous road and sidewalk conditions, and the threat of rolling blackouts, the elder's decided to cancel both the Christmas Eve service and the following Sunday service on Christmas Day. It was disappointing but the safety of our congregation is always the top priority. We greatly look forward to the 2023 Advent season, when all the planning done this year will pay off.

Worship & Staff Information

Sunday Worship Services:

9:30 AM— Sunday School

10:30 AM—Worship Service

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 11AM—1PM

(and upon request)

Phone:

(270) 753-3824

Church email:

fccmurray@gmail.com

FCC, MURRAY STAFF

Interim Minister: Chris Owens

Minister of Music: Mark Dycus

Musicians: Judy Hill & Janet Finch

Youth Director: Elena Roberts

Children Worship & Wonder:

Allison Willis, Alyssa Daughrity,
Emily Dawson, June Vander Molen

Nursery: Lisa Allen

Custodian: Aimee Bailey

Administrative Assistant: Katelyn Crane